



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOUNTAIN GROVE BUSINESSMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FIREARMS VIOLATIONS

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Mountain Grove, Mo., business owner pleaded guilty in federal court today to federal firearms violations.

Steven Goslee, 45, of Hartville, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to all of the charges contained in a Dec. 16, 2004, federal indictment. **Goslee**, who owns Westgate Trailer and Equipment Company in Mountain Grove, Mo., was scheduled to begin a jury trial on Wednesday.

By pleading guilty today, **Goslee** admitted that, while being an unlawful user of methamphetamine and marijuana, he was in possession of numerous firearms on four separate occasions during 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who is an unlawful user of a controlled substance to be in possession of any firearms or ammunition.

Goslee admitted that he was in possession of a Winchester 20-gauge shotgun and an S&W pistol on Sept. 24, a Colt rifle on May 21, an S&W .357- caliber revolver on Nov. 18 and six rifles and six shotguns on July 27, 2004. Each of those offenses occurred in Wright County, Mo.

Under federal statutes, **Goslee** could be subject to a sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$1 million. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Richard E. Monroe and Rose Barber. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Hartville, Mo., Police Department, the Southwest Missouri Drug Task Force, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and the Wright County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html